

**STANDARDS PRESENTATION
TO
CALIFORNIA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS BOARD**

Attachment No. 1

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PROPOSED STATE STANDARD,
TITLE 8, DIVISION 1, CHAPTER 4

DRAFT

Telecommunication Safety Orders
Amend Section 8608 to read as follows:

§8608. Poles, Towers and Ladders.

~~(a) The spacing between permanent and detachable steps installed on poles and towers shall be not more than 18 inches (36 inches on any one side). Spacing shall be uniform except where working, standing or access steps are required. The lowest permanent step shall be not less than 7 feet 6 inches from the ground line. Permanent steps for poles and towers shall not unnecessarily obstruct the climbing space and shall have a minimum diameter of 5/8 inch and a minimum clear tread width of 4 1/2 inches. The lowest detachable step shall be no more than 24 inches above ground level. Detachable steps shall be properly secured when in use.~~

(a) Definitions applicable to subsection (b).

“Steps” means permanent or detachable round or flat members attached to the pole or tower on one end with the other end designed to prevent the foot from sliding off while ascending or descending the pole or tower.

“Rungs” means ladder crosspieces on which a person may step in ascending or descending that are enclosed by ladder rails on either side.

(b)(1) Permanent and detachable steps for poles and towers shall not unnecessarily obstruct the climbing space and shall have a minimum diameter of 5/8 -inch and a minimum clear tread width of 4 1/2 inches.

(2) The spacing between permanent steps installed on poles and towers shall be not more than 18 inches (36 inches on any one side). Spacing shall be uniform except where working, standing or access steps are required. The lowest permanent step shall be not less than 7 feet 6 inches from the ground line.

(3) The lowest detachable step shall be no more than 24 inches above ground level. The spacing between detachable steps shall not exceed 30 inches on any one side. Detachable steps shall be properly secured when in use.

The 30 inch spacing requirement for detachable steps is a federal OSHA requirement in 1910.268(h)(2). This is added for consistency/equivalency with the federal standard. However, the committee will discuss this federal provision and whether there is any safety, retrofitting concerns, or consistency issues with the Calif. Public Utilities Commission General Orders – 95.

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Exception to subsections (b)(2) and (b)(3):

Steps for poles or towers that are subject to the jurisdiction of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) when such steps are provided in accordance with CPUC General Order No. 95 - August-2009 "Rules for Electric Overhead Line Construction."

This exception is proposed in lieu of deleted subsection (b) and would also serve to eliminate any conflict with CPUC provisions in G.O. No. 95 for steps on poles and towers. The committee will briefly review G.O. No. 95 - 2009 provisions in Sections 51.7, 81.6, 84.7-E., 91.3, and 61.7 for steps on poles and towers.

(4)(A) All fixed ladders on towers shall be approved as defined in Section 3206 of the General Industry Safety Orders.

(B) Fixed ladder rungs for towers shall have a minimum diameter of 5/8-inch and a minimum clear width of 12 inches between the side rails.

Subsection (a)(4)(B) is proposed for committee discussion as a result of Petition No. 510 and for consistency with the counterpart federal standard, 1910.268(h)(2). Note, the federal standard in 1910.268(h)(2) implies that the vertical distance between the top surface of rungs on fixed tower ladders "when towers are so equipped" shall be no more than 18 inches. Committee will discuss any clarity issues related to this federal provision and if additional language is necessary for subsection (a)(4).

~~(b) Pole Steps. Wood poles (such as poles with pole and/or strand mounted terminals) which are expected to be frequently climbed for maintenance or operating purposes shall be stepped in accordance with the regulations of the California Public Utilities Commission (G.O. 95, March, 1980).~~

With respect to existing subsection (b), it is noted that some utility poles under the jurisdiction of the CPUC are made of composite, fiberglass, steel and possibly other materials. The committee will discuss the proposed deletion of existing subsection (b). See explanation above in the comment box for the "Exception" to proposed subsections (b)(2) and (b)(3).

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 142.3, Labor Code. Reference: Section 142.3, Labor Code